



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, July 1, 2015**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Nancy Williamson (for Lynn Boerman)– IDNR, Ed Collins – M CCD, Martin Jaffe – UIC, Vincent Waller (for Deb Stone) – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Wallace Van Buren – IAWA, Patricia Werner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Absent: Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Mike Sullivan – Kane / Kendall Council of Mayors

Staff Present: Kristin Ihnchak, Jason Navota, Louise Yeung, Nora Beck

Others Present: Mike Klemens – WCGL, Edith Makra – MMC, Elena Savone – CBI, Philip Rosen – CCDEC.

1.0 Call to Order

Sean Wiedel called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

No announcements

3.0 Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 3 meeting was made by Wallace Van Buren, seconded by Ed Collins, and with all in favor, carried.

4.0 Next Comprehensive Regional Plan – Climate Resilience– Louise Yeung, CMAP Staff

From flood-related property damage to heat-related deaths, climate impacts have already taken significant economic, environmental, and social tolls on northeastern Illinois communities. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Yeung stepped through the purpose of the strategy papers to help inform the next comprehensive regional plan. A strategy paper focused on climate resilience will explore strategies to build resilience to climate change as part of the development of the next long-range plan. Yeung provided draft definitions of resilience and vulnerability to give the committee a sense of how the discussion is starting. Yeung also present a drafted scope of work for researching and developing climate resilience policies and explained that a resource group will be formed to guide the direct work, but the ENR committee will be asked to review and provide feedback on deliverables.

ENR committee members made a number of comments and asked questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Change instead of a focus on hazards/shocks/stressors.
- Distinction between all hazards and natural hazards.
- Concept of resilience includes mitigation measures.
- Capacity in terms of both human and natural systems.
- Flourish instead of thrive
- Overlapping rings should be replaced with concentric rings. The natural, built, and social systems are integrated, but depend more on the natural than the overlapping rings suggest.

5.0 Adapting to winter climate change – Martin Jaffe, UIC

While most climate adaptation planning has been focused on hotter summers, including more frequent summer heat waves and droughts, greater flood risks from a higher percentage of annual precipitation occurring in the form of more severe storms, and shifts in ranges of flora and fauna (including disease vectors), Martin Jaffe has investigated the potential impacts of a shorter and warmer winter season in the upper Great Lakes, particularly as it relates to the City of Chicago. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Jaffe reviewed the main findings of his [research](#) with Molly Woloszyn, NOAA Midwestern Regional Climate Center. They found that current projections anticipate a greater intensity of winter precipitation events (with a greater percentage of the winter precipitation falling as rain), changes in snowfall density (with more snowfalls possibly in the form of heavy, wet snow), and a possible increase in the frequency of freeze-thaw cycles.

Jaffe reviewed what these changes could mean for Chicago. Warmer winters could result in little change in annual energy costs (given projections of summer air conditioning needs). It could also result in fewer ice storms and freezing rain events. With more intense winter precipitation events, there could be more tree damage, power failures, and increased flooding risks, with more rain falling on snow or frozen ground and decreased stormwater storage and/or GI performance. The theoretical potential for more freeze-thaw cycles could result in more roadway and building damage. Jaffe discussed potential recommendations or adaptation strategies for these changes, including recreational facilities, shoreline maintenance, inter-departmental coordination with roadway projects,

building design. In addition, he identified several strategies for dealing with more heavy, wet snow, including changes to plowing, BMP design guidelines, planting lists, power line maintenance, and emergency heating centers.

ENR committee members made a number of comments and asked questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Mechanism for continued monitoring of winter climate changes? MRCC is collecting information, but a mechanism for further analysis on this issue hasn't been identified.
- Changes to winter onset and retreat. Important implications for tree failure and tree canopy impacts, in addition to larger habitat and migration patterns.
- Lack of data on utility reliability. There's potential for further research in this area to understand when blackouts are happening.
- Snow storage and the tendency to shed water in the wrong place.
- Center for Watershed Protection has done work looking at GI performance during the winter.
- CTA grant on resiliency included a winter response component.
- Use of salt. Fewer storm events could lead to less salt, but more freeze-thaw cycles could increase it.
- Prescription burn seasons are reaching further into the winter, as late as January and February.
- Potential for integration of plowing services.

6.0 Other Business

No other business.

7.0 Public Comment

No public comments.

8.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee is scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, September 2, 2015.

9.0 Adjournment